Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF)

1b. Relate functions to the organizational structure of Marine aviation.

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW)
  - Highest tactical aviation command level in the Fleet Marine Force
  - Compares to Marine divisions in command responsibility

Organizational Structure

- Marine Air Control Group (MACG)
  - Each Marine Aircraft Wing Contains one Marine Air Control Group
  - Provides, operates and maintains the Marine Command Control System (MACCS)
  - Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron (MTACS)
    - Major task is to provide a command post for the ACE commander
    - Responsible for support to the TACC

Organizational Structure

- Marine Air Control Squadron (MACS)
  - Provides air surveillance, control of aircraft and surface-to-air weapons for AAW
  - Also provides ATC and airspace management services in support of the MAGTF

Organizational Structure

- Marine Wing Communications Squadron (MWCS)
  - Installs and maintains tactical communications equipment and facilities
  - Provides LAN and WAN servers to the ACE

Organizational Structure

- Marine Air Support Squadron (MASS)
  - Major tasks include conducting operational planning for direct air support operations and processing immediate request for air support
  - Responsible for supporting the DASC

Organizational Structure

- Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion (LAAD)
  - Provides close in, low altitude surface-to-air weapons fires in defense of the MAGTF

Organizational Structure

- Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron (VMU)
  - Provides unmanned aerial reconnaissance support to the MAGTF)

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)
  - Smallest aviation organization capable of independent operations with no aid (except supply)
  - Structured by aircraft class as either helicopter (rotary wing) or fixed wing
  - Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS FW/RW)
    - Provides MALSP support packages
    - Provides intermediate level maintenance for all aircraft and equipment

Organizational Structure

- Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron (VMGR)
  - Provides aerial/ground refueling and assault support
  - Transports personnel, equipment and supplies

Organizational Structure

- Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VMAQ)
  - Conducts airborne electronic warfare
  - Detects and suppresses enemy electronic warning, acquisition, weapons systems and communications

Organizational Structure

- Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron (VMFA)
  - Performs aircraft interception, offensive air support and escort duties
  - Intercepts and destroys enemy aircraft under all weather conditions and attacks and destroys surface targets

Organizational Structure

- Marine All Weather Fighter/Attack Squadron [VMFA (AW)]
  - Provides offensive air support, aircraft interception, air reconnaissance and airborne supporting arms coordination
  - Attacks and destroys surface targets, day or night, under the weather; conducts multisensor imagery reconnaissance; provides CAS and DAS; and intercept and destroy enemy aircraft under all weather conditions

Organizational Structure

- Marine Attack Squadron (VMA)
  - Primary mission is offensive air support (close air support)
  - Attacks and destroys surface targets under day/night visual meteorological conditions

Organizational Structure

- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (CH-53D) (HMH)
  - Provides assault helicopter transport of heavy weapons, equipment, and supplies during amphibious operations and subsequent operations ashore
  - The CH-53D are now considered medium lift helicopters but have retained their HMH designation
  - Conducts tactical retrieval and recovery operations for downed pilots, aircraft and equipment

Organizational Structure

- Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (CH-53E) (HMH)
  - Has the same mission as the CH-53D
  - Maintains the capability to deploy and conduct extended range operations by employing aerial refueling

Organizational Structure

- Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)
  - Provides assault transport of combat troops as primary function
  - Provides vertical transport of supplies and equipment as secondary mission

Organizational Structure

- Marine Medium Tilt-Rotor Squadron (VMM)
  - Provides assault transport of combat troops as primary function
  - Provides transport of combat troops, supplies, and equipment across the spectrum of expeditionary operations

Organizational Structure

- Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA)
  - Provides combat utility helicopter support, attack helicopter fire support and fire support coordination during amphibious operations and subsequent operations ashore
  - Operates as a entire squadron, or as detachments

Organizational Structure

- Marine Wing Support Group (MWSG)
  - Each Marine Aircraft Wing contains one Marine Wing Support Group with four subordinate squadrons
  - Provides the Aviation Combat Element with essential Aviation Ground Support (AGS)
  - Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS)
    - Fixed wing squadron supports fixed wing operations
    - Rotary wing squadron supports rotary wing operations

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Marine Air Command Control System provides the Aviation Combat Element Commander with the means to command, coordinate and control air operations
- The Marine Air Control Group (MACG) establishes, operates, and maintains the MACCS
  - Tactical Air Command Center (TACC)
    - Senior Marine Air Command Control System agency
    - Focal point for aviation command and control

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Direct Air Support Center (DASC)
  - Responsible for the direction of air operations directly supporting ground forces
  - Coordinates execution of and response to requests for preplanned and immediate close air support, assault support and certain air reconnaissance missions
    - Tactical Air Control Party (TACP)
      - » Located within the Ground Combat Element (GCE)
      - » Establishes and maintain, facilities for liaison and communications between parent units and airspace control agencies

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne) [TAC(A)]
  - » Is an officer who coordinates, from an aircraft, the action of combat aircraft engaged in close support of ground forces
  - » Is a naval aviator and/or naval flight officer
- Forward Air Controller (Airborne) [FAC(A)]
- Assault Support Coordinator (Airborne) [ASC(A)]
- Helicopter Support Team (HST)

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC)
  - Performs surveillance and detects, identifies and directs the destruction of enemy aircraft and missiles
  - Primary Antiair Warfare agency within the Marine Air Command Control System

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Marine Air Traffic Control Detachments
  - Provides all-weather air traffic control services to forward operating bases
  - Task organized to fit mission requirements

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD)
  - Provides close in, low altitude, surface-to-air weapons fires in defense of forward combat elements, vital areas, and installations
  - Provides the MAGTF’s only organic surface-to-air defense

Marine Air Command Control System Agencies (MACCS)

- Marine Wing Communications Squadron (MWCS)

Conclusion

- SUMMARY: In this unit you have become familiar with the six functions of Marine aviation. You also have gained an understanding of how weather affects each of these functions
- REMOTIVATION: a thorough understanding of the six functions will enable the forecaster to better serve our customers

Conclusion

- ASSIGNMENT: None
- CLOSURE: Now that you have a better understanding of the customer, the next unit will introduce you to the MST concept and the equipment used to provide METOC support to the customer

- APPLICATION: Interspersed throughout the entire lesson
- EVALUATION: Written test at the end of the unit